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# The 2014 Annual Report

of the City of Columbus – Fire Department

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City of Columbus





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*This Annual Report is prepared for the citizens of the City of Columbus and the following 2014 public officials:*

**Columbus Mayor:**  
*The Honorable Kristen Brown*

**Columbus City Council:**  
*Dascal Bunch  
Ryan Brand  
Frank Jerome  
Frank Miller  
Tim Shuffett  
Kenny Whipker  
Jim Lienhoop*

## 2014 Overview of the Columbus Fire Department

I am happy to report that your Fire Department is now able to offer more lifesaving skills to the citizens of Columbus. Over the course of 2014 we have trained, bought new and improved advanced life support equipment, hired firefighters, promoted a new PIO and ordered 2 pieces of fire apparatus, all while still putting out fires throughout the year.

The number one accomplishment of 2014 was sending 11 basic EMTs to paramedic school at Pellam in Bloomington. I am pleased to report that because of this school, CFD now has 9 newly licensed paramedics with the remaining 2 class members waiting to re-take the written exam. Adding in the 9 medics, while hiring 2 more, CFD now has 34 paramedics riding on our engines. With these additions, CFD can now offer ALS service 24/7 giving Columbus residents the added emergency care while backing up CRHs' ambulances.

CFD's new PIO, Captain Mike Wilson, was promoted at the beginning of the year, replacing CPD's Matt Myers, our interim PIO & newly elected Sheriff. Captain Wilson hit the ground running promoting CFD and he never looked back. Even though Mike is training and learning the boundaries of his position, he was able to facilitate the following: cross trained CPD officers on fire behavior, partnered with BCSC to save lives with our Survive Alive trailer, created "Save my Pet" stickers, photographed numerous fire and accident scenes and submitted same to local news outlets, served on the Everbridge language barrier committee and many other projects that are too numerous to mention here. Let's just say PIO Wilson is a valued member of CFD.

Our Fire Prevention bureau, Inspectors/Investigators Matt Noblitt and Norvin Williams, continued their roles to keep our new and existing buildings safe for our residents and visitors to Columbus. Their roles are numerous also by educating businesses in the proper use of a fire extinguisher, assisting the Homeland Fire Inspector with inspecting all of our schools, made sure new construction projects are fire safe from the inception in addition to other fire prevention duties. Both Matt and Norvin are also members of the Bartholomew County arson team, a group comprising of both CFD investigators, county fire investigator and 2 CPD Detectives. All told, the group determined the origin and cause of over 30 fires in and around Columbus.

The EMS division, led by Deputy Chief Mike Kutsko was very productive and proactive in 2014. As mentioned before, CFD has grown our number of paramedics by training and hiring, bringing our total on apparatus after 2 retirements to 34 or 37% of your firefighters, a net increase of 13%. In addition, Mike aided in training 11 new CPR instructors, rising the count to 13, a whopping 85% increase of trainers to give CFD the ability to offer more CPR classes to our residents. Deputy Kutsko did not stop there; he applied for and received a grant for 2 EMS response bicycles to be used at various outdoor functions, aided in purchasing new Zoll monitors/defibrillators to replace aging equipment and still had time to be sure your EMS responders are properly trained and ready to serve.

While waiting for the new fire apparatus to arrive in early 2015, our Master Mechanic Mark Williams has been very busy keeping our fleet on the ready 24/7. Mark was overjoyed when his new lifts were delivered, allowing him better access when repairing and keeping our aging fleet on the ready.

Captain Eric Darlege, our training officer, kept the members of CFD on their toes with up to date education. Eric oversaw numerous classes including but not limited to: EMT-B and EMT-P refresher course, rookie training for our 7 new firefighters (Atherton, Hampton, Wigham, Flick, Hite, Hercamp & J. Sims), assisted in implementation of our HazMat team, coordinated rope rescue, heavy machinery extrication, Zoll monitor classes while still keeping firefighters on top of fire extinguishment. One long waited purchase finally came to fruition with the acquisition of

rope rescue equipment, allowing Captain Darledge to keep the rescue techs sharp for the time they are needed. Eric has been a very busy individual keeping us aware and prepared, always reminded of with his motto, "Train with Purpose, Train to Survive".

CFD operations are headed by Deputy Chief Dan Bates who then gives the day to day operations to Battalion Chiefs Mike Compton, Tim Hughes and Dan Cleland. Their shifts were always on the ready to tackle any task that might arise, still having time to help with Operation Safe Prom, attend leadership classes, coordinate 6 open houses throughout 2014, tours of local businesses and factories to pre-plan for emergencies, participated in an Active Shooter drill at IUPUC, provide mutual aid to our neighboring volunteer fire departments and again responding to medical emergencies and building and vehicle fires.

In conclusion, CFD has had a very productive and busy year. We were proud to participate in the dedication of the bridge on National Rd. to the "Iron Men of Metz and the 9-11 ceremony held at City Hall, hoisting the large garrison American flag both times with the assistance of East Columbus IFD. We are proud and humbled to serve and will continue to do so and we all thank you for the opportunity to continue the proud tradition of the Columbus Fire Department.

Chief David Allmon



## **Administration**

The Columbus Fire Department Administrative Office is located in the headquarter station at 1101 Jackson Street. The Columbus Fire Department is comprised of six fire stations strategically located in the City of Columbus to offer the best response time to all areas as possible. These facilities are manned 24 hours a day, rotating over three shifts. There are currently 93 uniformed firefighters and four civilian employees in the Department.

The administrative staff located at headquarters includes:

- Fire Chief Dave Allmon
- Deputy Chief of Operations Dan Bates
- Deputy Chief of EMS Mike Kutsko
- Fire Inspector Matt Noblitt
- Fire Inspector Norvin Williams
- Public Information Officer Mike Wilson
- Chief Administrative Assistant Julie Dayton
- Administrative Assistant Robin McCue

Our Maintenance Facility is located at 2770 Verhulst Drive. There you will find Master Mechanic Mark Williams taking care of all equipment repairs and routine maintenance on all vehicles of the Columbus Fire Department.

Our Training Officer, Eric Darlage conducts his classes and department training at the training facility located at 2670 Verhulst. In addition to hands-on-training, he also schedules training for all stations and maintains all training records for all employees.

## **Mission**

Protect Lives and Property

## **Value Statements**

The Columbus Fire Department is professional in all of its actions.

- Appearance
- Respectful attitude
- Caring and compassion for people
- Training, preparedness, and readiness
- High quality service

The Columbus Fire Department recognizes that every employee is a valued member of the Columbus Fire Department Family.

- Team oriented
- Input is valued
- Compassion toward one-another
- Respect for one-another
- Communicate openly at all levels
- Feel secure

The Columbus Fire Department shall strive to promote health, safety, and welfare, at all times, in all actions through:

- Critical Incident Stress Debriefing
- Employee Assistance Program
- NFPA & OSHA Standards
- Personal Fitness
- Attention to professional needs

## 2014 Incident Statistics with Prior Year Comparison

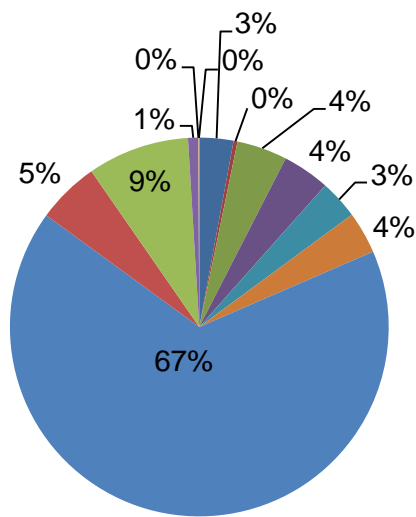
<b><u>Fire &amp; Emergency Responses for 2014</u></b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2013</b>
Fire Alarms (100s)	131	117
Overpressure rupture, overheat, No Fire (200s)	15	8
Rescue and Emergency Medical Service Incident (300s)	194	226
Hazardous Materials (400s)	182	174
Service Calls (500s)	150	149
Good Intent Calls (600s less 661 & 611)	162	159
EMS Assists (661)	3,001	2,764
Disregards/Cancelled Enroute (611)	240	197
False Alarm & False Call (700s)	392	350
Chargable Runs (700s less 735)	39	40
Severe Weather & Natural Disaster (800s)	1	3
Special Incident Type (900s)	3	9
	4,510	4,196

### **Building, Contents, and Vehicle Dollar Loss**

<b>Building Loss</b>	<b>\$1,131,611</b>	<b>\$1,018,250</b>
<b>Contents Loss</b>	<b>\$1,169,601</b>	<b>\$538,550</b>
<b>Vehicle Loss</b>	<b>\$1,248,501*</b>	<b>\$30,600</b>
<b>Total Loss</b>	<b>\$2,426,062</b>	<b>\$1,857,400</b>

\*Increase in vehicle loss was due to a motorhome fire valued @ \$1,020,000

## Columbus Fire Department Run Breakdown - 2014



- Fire Alarms (100s)
- Overpressure rupture, overhear, No Fire (200s)
- Rescue and Emergency Medical Service Incident (300s)
- Hazardous Materials (400s)
- Service Calls (500s)
- Good Intent Calls (600s less 661 & 611)
- EMS Assists (661)
- Disregards/Cancelled Enroute (611)
- False Alarm & False Call (700s)
- Chargable Runs (700s less 735)
- Severe Weather & Natural Disaster (800s)
- Special Incident Type (900s)

## 2014 Goals and Measures

### Training

#### **2014 TRAINING DIVISION ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Columbus Fire Department Training Division had a busy and exciting year in 2014. Below is a list of our accomplishments:

**\*\*note: HOT stands for Hands On Training\*\***

#### **January:**

- Railroad awareness training
- CPD cross training (once a week for four weeks)
- EMT refresher course
- Begin training new rookie FF's (Atherton, Hampton, Wingham)

#### **February:**

- EMT refresher course
- Ice rescue training==HOT
- Finish rookie training (Atherton, Wingham)
- Haz-Mat Awareness/Ops for rookie Hampton
- Fire Behavior training
- Reading smoke training

#### **March:**

- Complete Fire Fighter I/II with rookie Hampton
- Complete Fire Fighter II with rookie Atherton
- Complete rookie training with FF Hampton
- Fire control/ventilation training
- Hose line Advancement training== HOT
- Renewed 7 EMT certifications (1 medic, 6 basics)

#### **April:**

- Accountability training
- Calling a "MAYDAY" skills/drills training== HOT
- Begin training new rookie FF Flick

#### **May:**

- Complete rookie training with FF Flick
- Training on new CO detectors== HOT
- Swift Water Awareness training
- IPMBA Bike Medic class (DC Kutsko, TO Darlage)

#### **June:**

- Triage training
- Ropes/knots training== HOT
- Ground ladder training== HOT
- Agility test practice== HOT
- Youth Academy (1 day)
- Renewed 11 EMT certifications (1 medic, 10 basics)

#### **July:**

- Rope refresher training== HOT
- Training on new Zoll monitors== HOT

### **August:**

- Paramedic refresher
- Training on new lap tops for apparatus

### **September:**

- Vehicle/Machinery Tech class== HOT
- Training on new Zoll Auto Pulse (CPR device)==HOT
- Preparedness training for Marathon
- Renewed 15 EMT certifications (6 medics, 9 basics)

### **October:**

- Fire Prevention Week- Business tours, fire drills, etc..
- Citizens Academy (2 days)—EMS mega code, fire extinguisher training, extrication demo, rope rescue demo
- Railroad training – Haz-Mat related
- Begin training new rookie FF Hite

### **November:**

- Complete training with rookie FF Hite
- Company Officer Leadership class (2 days)

### **December:**

- Begin training new rookie FF's Hercamp and Sims
- Cold water rescue training (RDC)== HOT
- Renewed 16 EMT certifications (7 medics, 9 basics)
- Renewed 2 fire instructor certifications

### **Training Extras:**

- Monthly Mandatory training for Haz-Mat team
- Once a month company crew training—company officers choice

Columbus Fire Training Division continues to strive for excellence by providing meaningful evolutions and training sessions throughout the calendar year. We always live by our mission statement:

“Train with Purpose, Train to Survive”

## Fire Prevention Bureau

The 2014 fire prevention, inspection, and investigation divisions' accomplishments included:

- Assisted Homeland Fire Inspector with all the Columbus Public Schools, Private and/or Academy Schools, and Preschool inspections
- Attended training classes/seminars on fire/building code subjects. Used on-line courses at Homeland Security, National Fire Academy, and other web sites for educational purposes
- Participated in the pre-planning stages of all new construction and existing buildings within the City
- Completed final inspections on all new buildings and remodeled buildings
- Gave fire prevention classes to businesses in addition to providing extinguishing training
- Made contact with and gave out fire prevention information, pamphlets, and coloring books to approximately 360 (just inspector numbers) people in Bartholomew County
- Participated on a county arson investigation team in the past year, consisting of two Columbus Police Department investigators, a County Investigator, and both CFD Fire Inspectors
- Attended the Arson Investigator Conference

Investigated origin and cause in over 30 fires within the City and County

## Public Information

### 2014 PIO Accomplishments

- Implemented fire escape plan refrigerator magnet for Columbus families
- Created "Save My Pet" stickers
- Facilitated 95 CFD appearances in 2014
- Served as a member of the Everbridge foreign language Committee
- Cross Trained CPD officers on Fire Behavior
- Photographed Fire Department scene activities
- Photographed Fire Department training activities
- Communicated with local media through press releases
- Interviewed monthly on local radio to promote fire prevention and community safety
- Instructed swift water rescue awareness to All CFD Shifts

- Participated in the Everbridge Canvassing event mobile home parks.
- Smoke alarm information shared at multiple events during 2014.
- Teamed up with CPD for the City Of Columbus Public Safety Family Fun Day
- Became coalition member for Safe Kids Bartholomew County
- PIO assisted in planning the 3rd Annual Mayor's Ride
- Mentor of Senior Project for Kaitlyn Gearhart
- Mentor of Senior Project for Austin Straub
- Developed CFD role in Cummins Road Safety Expo 2014
- Partnered with BCSC to provide fire prevention education to local school children
- Participated in the Learning Center Active Shooter Drill as PIO
- Presented youth fire setter intervention with local high school students
- Logged 38 hours as Fire Department Instructor
- Tilly program had 1921 participants
- The Survive Alive program had 470 participants

## **Mechanical**

Our mechanical division has been very busy keeping our aging fleet of vehicles in service while we wait for our new apparatus to arrive. To aid Mechanic Mark Williams in his duties, we purchased 4 new heavy duty lifts that replace our old "pit". These lifts are capable of raising a fully loaded fire truck high off the ground to allow better access for servicing the equipment. In addition to repairing fire trucks, Mark's duties include lawn mower repair, staff vehicle maintenance and general repairs on various other equipment throughout the 6 firehouses.

## A.R.F.F.

The ARFF Division continues forward progress and strives to improve on a daily basis. The ARFF Division is a "unique model ARFF program that the City of Columbus should be very proud of." A direct quote from Indianapolis Airport Training Division Chief Kevin Elmore.

The ARFF Division was recognized on August 9, 2014 by the Executive Committee and general membership of the Great Lakes Chapter, American Association of Airport Executives for exceptional skills, innovation, and proactive improvement in the field of Aircraft Fire Fighting and Rescue Services.

The Success of the ARFF Division is the continued collaboration between The Columbus Municipal Airport (CMA), The City of Columbus, and the Columbus Fire Department.

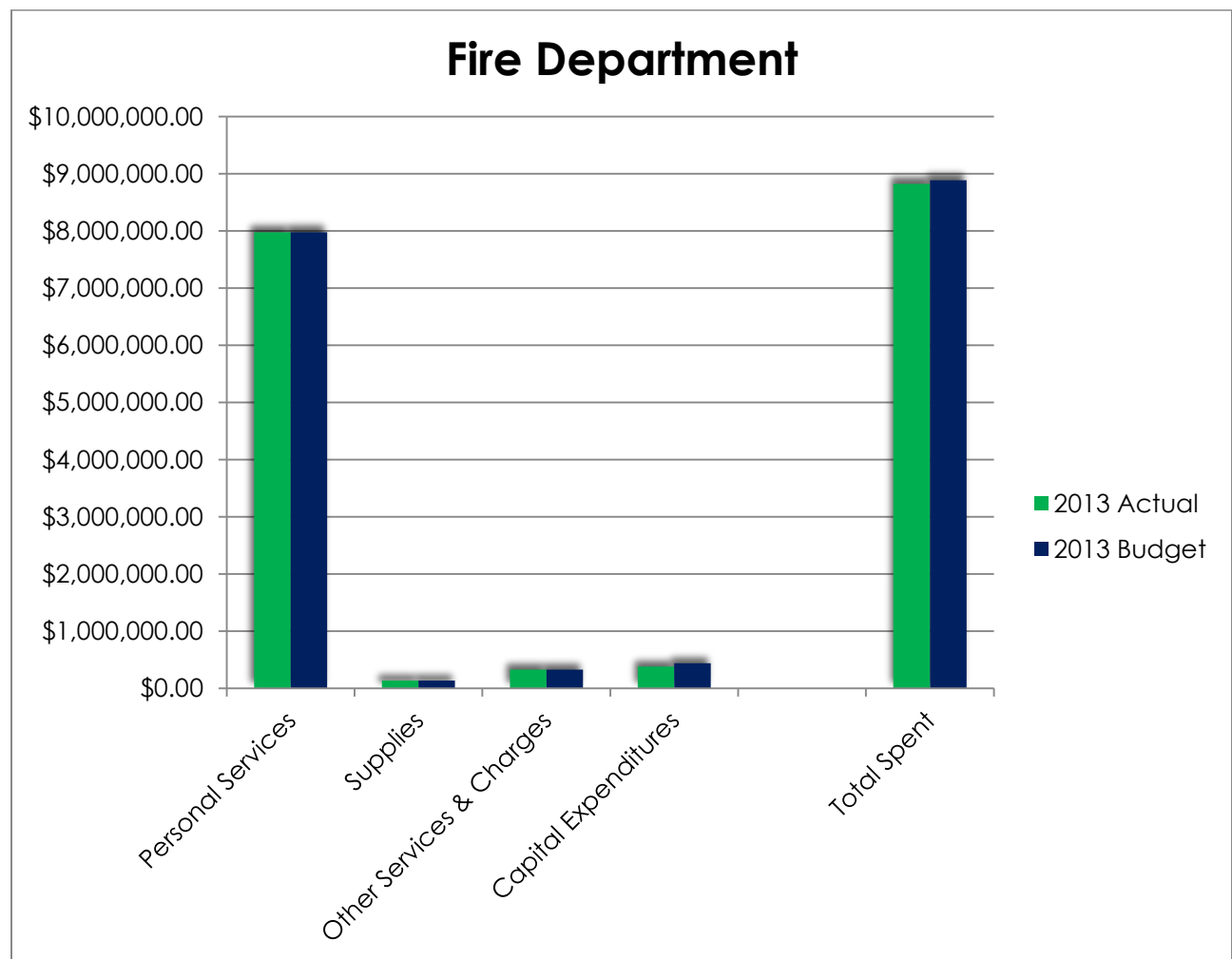
The Mission of the ARFF Division is Saving lives and protecting property. The Vision for Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighting (ARFF) is a program dedicated and committed to providing the best Fire, Rescue, Hazmat, and EMS services to the citizens of Columbus in and around the Airport property with Life Safety being the top priority!

In 2014 the ARFF Division Accomplished:

- Maintained monthly recurrent training as mandated by FAA.
- Conducted Monthly unannounced Reaction Response Drills all less than 3 min. response times to center of airfield.
- Multiple training evolutions on DC-3 prop.
- HRET and piercing operations on piercing simulator.
- Third Party validation for testing of Foam and Purple - K agent.
- Area Movement training course as mandated by FAA.
- Networking with ARFF Working Group and Indianapolis Airport Fire Department.
- Online Digacast computer aided training.
- Instructed 3 City of Columbus Fire Department personnel and 1 Muskatatuck Fire fighter in ARFF Certification.
- Recertified 21 Columbus Fire Fighters by attending Live Burn Training at Grissom Air Force Base.
- 9 current Active Fire Fighters currently assigned 24hrs/7 days a week.
- Plans for access rd. to connect North Apron with Taxiway Delta.
- Implemented Airport Emergency Plan on all apparatus at Station #2, Battalion #1 , and Squad #1.
- K - 14 Rescue saw placed in service on Airport 14.
- Constructed a 3 dimensional running fire simulator training prop. ( by Capt. Sieverding ).
- Attended FDIC conference
- Toured Hanger, Fuel Stations, planes, and Air Traffic Control Tower.
- Invited FAA to conduct Course on Scene preservation for Aircraft Accidents and Incidents.

## Financials

<b>Fire Department</b>	<b>2013 Actual</b>	<b>2013 Budget</b>	<b>Difference</b>	<b>%</b>
Personal Services	\$7,976,229.52	\$7,978,221.00	\$1,991.48	100%
Supplies	\$138,084.21	\$138,200.00	\$115.79	100%
Other Services & Charges	\$327,096.51	\$327,099.00	\$2.49	100%
Capital Expenditures	\$380,896.00	\$440,000.00	\$59,104.00	87%
<b>Total Spent</b>	<b>\$8,822,306.24</b>	<b>\$8,883,520.00</b>	<b>\$61,213.76</b>	<b>99%</b>
 Year Over Year- 2012/2013	 \$370,162.89	 \$254,412.99	 <b>\$115,749.90</b>	
Year Over Year- 2012/2013	4%	3%	<b>-65%</b>	



<b>Fire Department</b>	2014 Actual	2014 Budget	Difference	%
Personal Services	\$8,166,774.50	\$8,363,415.00	\$196,640.50	98%
Supplies	\$135,327.84	\$138,200.00	\$2,872.16	98%
Other Services & Charges	\$306,104.95	\$346,500.00	\$40,395.05	88%
Capital Expenditures	\$407,473.58	\$410,000.00	\$2,526.42	99%
<b>Total Spent</b>	<b>\$9,015,680.87</b>	<b>\$9,258,115.00</b>	<b>\$242,434.13</b>	<b>97%</b>
Year Over Year- 2013/2014	\$193,374.63	\$374,595.00	\$181,220.37	
Year Over Year- 2013/2014	2%	4%	296%	

